

The Lincoln Legion

Sunday School Service Number One

Prepared by REV. HOWARD H. RUSSELL, D. D., General Secretary

"Scissors Service" for Giving the Parts to Those Appointed]

Preparation for the Service, Suggestions to Officers

To Pastor and Superintendent: Important Suggestions To Insure a Smooth and Inspiring Service:

Appoint four committees, of one to three persons upon each committee, and hand them their directions as follows:

1. COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM.

Chairman

Select the pupils to recite the various parts. If possible assign a good speaker from each class. Give out the portions at once, urging careful preparation. Rehearse them at least twice.

The Committee on Program should invite if possible some prominent public officer, a congressman, member state legislature, mayor, or one who has been such an official, to read the President's letter. Let him know he is not expected to make a speech, as time forbids, but to read the letter of the President to the School. If not an official, then some influential citizen.

2. COMMITTEE ON DECORATION.

Chairman

Brighten the room with flags, flowers, etc. A large picture of Lincoln draped with a flag should be shown in front of the pulpit, or on an easel, or on the wall. Cover the Keller picture of "Lincoln and the Boy Breckenridge" with a flag tied with a string or ribbon for unrolling at the proper time in the service. This committee should raise the money for the frame for the Keller picture and get it framed. Perhaps the dealer will contribute a frame. It is worthy a fine frame—green or white would be appropriate. Keep the picture out of sight until it is unrolled. Appoint a boy of about ten years (the age of Breckenridge) to unroll the picture.

3. COMMITTEE ON PLEDGES AND ROLL.

Chairman

This committee should see that the number of pledges required are in the hands of each teacher above primary, with extra pencils for prompt action. Assist teachers in urging all to sign. Ask teachers to see that all blanks are filled upon the duplicates. Appoint assistants to supply all visitors with pledges. Every one, old and young, is invited to sign. When you collect the duplicates, see that all blanks are filled. Get a good writer to engrave the names of the signers from the duplicates upon the Wall Roll. Do this at once so the duplicates can be sent promptly to the National offices. Mail them within three days to Rev. Howard H. Russell, General Secretary of the Lincoln Legion, Westerville, Franklin County, Ohio. For the first time we are to have a permanent national enrollment of total abstainers. This committee should provide a frame for the Wall Roll. Raise the money by subscription from a member or members of the church, or invite one of the classes to supply it, or in some way without drawing upon Sunday School funds.

4. COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTION.

Chairman

See that the school is informed two or three Sundays before, they are each to have a chance to help

by their gifts, to push the great temperance cause. Show the school the picture of the "Marion Lawrance Press" and explain that the extension work of the Lincoln Legion to which the gift will be applied during 1911 is the purchase of the mammoth Printing Press, which will cost \$30,000, and will be installed at the National offices of the Lincoln Legion at Westerville, Ohio. When built by the Sunday Schools, it will be christened with spring water by a Sunday School girl, and started at work by a Sunday School boy, at a Sunday School "Dedication Service." It will print exclusively temperance literature. It will be named the "Marion Lawrance" Press, after our distinguished World's Sunday School Secretary, who we hope will make the dedication address.

The Contribution Committee should see that a canvass is made beforehand in the home department and among friends of the school who cannot be present. Also, give out the proper number of collection envelopes to each teacher, the Sunday before the Lincoln service, to be given the children. As soon as it is received put the picture of the press and of Mr. Lawrance in the Sunday School room. At the hour of the Lincoln Service, have an ample number of collectors appointed, using the baskets or plates, and give every one present a chance to contribute. Talk it up beforehand and ask the teachers to co-operate in getting a worthy offering. After the service count the collection that it may be recorded, and send the remittance promptly, payable to Foster Copeland, (President of the City National Bank, Columbus), Treasurer of the Lincoln Legion, Westerville, Ohio.

SPECIAL MENTION.

One hundred Sunday Schools will be reported in the World Flag (the organ of the Lincoln Legion) in January, 1912, namely, the fifty contributing the largest amounts, and the fifty others contributing the largest amounts in proportion to their enrolled membership during 1911.

5. PERMANENT LINCOLN LEGION COMMITTEE.

It is suggested that the chairmen of the four committees named above, and the superintendent, ex officio, be continued as a permanent Lincoln Legion Committee. It would be their duty to see that an annual Lincoln Service is held, and additional signers secured to the Lincoln Pledge and to co-operate with similar committees in other Sunday Schools and with the National officers of the Lincoln Legion, in pushing the Gospel Temperance and pledge-signing work of the Lincoln Legion throughout the community.

LENGTH OF THIS SERVICE.

This Lincoln Legion Service Number One, if organized by live committees and pushed promptly, can easily be carried through in an hour and allow within that time fifteen minutes for the signing and collection of the Lincoln pledges. If the pledges and plenty of pencils are in the teachers' hands, the pledges can be signed and the duplicates collected in five or ten minutes. If desired you may shorten the service by leaving out the first two paragraphs of Lincoln's "Temperance Address," or by omitting Lowell's poem "The First American" and by omitting one of the songs.

Lincoln Legion Service Number One. Program in Full

1. HYMN—"America" Congregation
(Sing first two and last verses—last verse softly as a prayer.)

2. SCRIPTURE READING, (In unison)
The First Psalm

3. PRAYER.

The pastor or person assigned to lead in a brief opening Prayer, will offer thanks for the life and example of Lincoln and pray for a blessing upon the Gospel Temperance Movement, "The Lincoln Legion," which bears his name. Lead

up to the prayer of the Lincoln Legion, in which all should join, as follows:

Prayer of the Lincoln Legion

Dear Lord of Thee
Three things I pray:
To know Thee more clearly,
To love Thee more dearly,
To follow more nearly,
Every day.

4. BRIEF SKETCH OF LINCOLN'S LIFE.

Presiding Officer:

In the Psalm which we have read we have a description of a Godly man. This gives us concisely the character of Lincoln. For a brief account of this remarkable life we turn to his own modest words, written at the request of a friend, in 1859:

LINCOLN'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY.

Read or recited by _____

(This part may be divided between two scholars.)
"I was born February 12, 1809, at a Hardin County, Kentucky. My parents were born in Virginia, of undistinguished families—second families, perhaps I should say. My mother, who died in my tenth year, was of a family of the name of Hanks. My paternal grandfather, Abraham Lincoln, emigrated to Kentucky about 1781 or 1782, where, a year or two later, he was killed by the Indians, not in battle, but by stealth, when he was laboring to open a farm in the forest. His ancestors, who were Quakers, went to Virginia from Berks County, Pennsylvania.

"My father, the death of his father, was but six years of age, and grew up literally without education. He removed from Kentucky to what is now Spencer County, Indiana, in my eighth year. . . . There I grew up. There were some schools, so called, but no qualification was ever required for a teacher beyond 'readin', writin' and cipherin'' to the rule of three. . . . There was absolutely nothing to excite ambition for education. . . . Of course, when I came of age I did not know much. . . . I have not been to school since. The little education I now have upon the common education I have picked up from time to time under the pressure of necessity. . . .

"I was raised to farm work, which I continued till I was twenty-two. At twenty-one I came to Illinois, Macon County. Then I got to New Salem, where I remained a year as a store clerk, in a store. Then came the Black Hawk War; and I was elected a captain of volunteers, which gave me more pleasure than any I have had since. I went into the campaign, was elected, ran for the legislature the same year (1832) and was beaten—the only time I was ever beaten by the people. The next and three succeeding biennial elections I was elected to the legislature. I was not a candidate afterward. During this legislative period I had studied law, and removed to Springfield to practice it. In 1846 I was elected to the lower House of Congress. Was not a candidate for reelection. From 1849 to 1854, both inclusive, practised law more assiduously than ever before. Always a Whig in politics, and generally on the electoral tickets, making active campaign. I was losing interest in politics when the repeal of the Missouri Compromise aroused me again. What I have done since is pretty well known.

"If any personal description is thought desirable, it may be said that I am of height, six feet four inches, nearly; lean in flesh, weighing on an average of one hundred and eighty pounds, dark complexion, with coarse black hair and gray eyes. No other marks and brands recollected.

"Yours truly,

"A. LINCOLN."

6. QUOTATIONS FROM LINCOLN.

Presiding Officer:

Modest as Lincoln was he added to his attainments as a logician and statesman the ability to express himself as few men can. He spoke with pleasantness and point in his briefest spring of words; with force and brevity, when he said: "Don't swap horses in the middle of the stream," and "You can fool all of the people some of the time, and some of the people all of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time;" and in the most touching and lasting he framed for us the paeonoid ideals of his soul—his patriotic fervor, his love for temperance, his reverence for law, his fondness

for the Bible and his devotion to God. We are now to listen to some words written or spoken by Lincoln himself:

(a) RECITATION. By _____

Lincoln's farewell to his neighbors at Springfield when he started for Washington, in 1861:

"Friends,—No one who has never been placed in like position can understand my feelings at this hour, nor the oppressive sadness I feel at this parting. For more than a quarter of a century I have lived among you, and during all that time I have received nothing but kindness at your hands. Here I have lived from my youth, until now I am an old man. Here the most sacred ties of earth were assumed. Here all my children were born; and here one of them lies buried. To you, dear friends, I owe all that I have and that I am. All the strange, checked past seems to crowd now upon my mind. Today I leave you. I go to assume a task more difficult than that which devolved upon Washington. Unless the great God, who assisted him, shall be with me and aid me I must fail; but if the same omniscient, kind and almighty arm that directed and protected him shall guide and support me, I shall not fail—I shall succeed. Let us all pray that the God of our fathers may not forsake us now. To him I commend you all. Permit me to ask, that with equal security and faith, you will invoke His wisdom and guidance for me. With these few words, I must leave you: for how long I know not. Friends, one and all, I must now bid you an affectionate farewell."

(b) RECITATION. By _____

Lincoln's Speech at Gettysburg Battlefield:

"Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, so conceived, and so dedicated can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting-place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live; and that the Government might so live, that it shall have the right to live forever. The objects of this But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

(c) RECITATION. By _____

Lincoln on Reverence for Law:

"Let REVERENCE FOR THE LAW be breathed by every mother to the lisping babe that prattles on her lap; let it be taught in schools, seminaries, and colleges; let it be written in primers, spelling-books, and almanacs; let it be preached from pulpits, and proclaimed in legislative halls, and enforced in courts of justice; in short, let it become the political religion of the Nation."

(d) RECITATION. By _____

Extract from Lincoln's temperance address before the Washington Society at Springfield, Illinois, February 22nd, 1842.

"If the relative grandeur of revolutions shall be estimated by the great amount of human misery they alleviate, and the small amount they inflict, then, indeed, will this be the grandest of revolutions, and have been so. . . . Of our political revolution of '76, we are all justly proud. It has given us a degree of political freedom, far exceeding that of any other of the nations of the earth. In it the world has found a solution of the most important problem as to the capability of man to govern himself. It was the germ which has vegetated, and still is in growth and expansion, into the universal liberty of mankind.

"But with all these glorious results, past, present,

and to come it had its evils too. . . . It breathed forth famine, swam in blood and rode on fire; and long, long after the orphan's cry, and widow's wail, continued to bring the sad sighs of the orphaned. . . . were the price, the inevitable price, paid for the blessings it brought.

"Turn now, to the temperance revolution. In it, we shall find a stronger bondage broken; a viler slavery unmanumitted; a greater terror denounced. In it, more of want supplied, more disease healed, more sorrow assuaged. By it, no orphan starving, no widows weeping. By it, none wounded in feeling, none injured in interest. Even the drum maker, and the drum seller, will have glided into other occupations so gradually, as never to have felt the shock of change; and will stand ready to join all others in the universal song of gladness.

"And when the victory shall be complete—when there shall be neither a slave nor a drunkard on earth—how proud the title of that Land, which may truly claim to be the birthplace and the cradle of both those revolutions, that shall have ended in that victory. How nobly distinguished that people, who have planned and nurtured to maturity, both the political and moral freedom of their species."

6. HYMN. Selected from the Sunday School song book, Number _____

7. TRIBUTES TO LINCOLN.

Presiding Officer:

Men of every walk of life have looked upon Lincoln as the greatest of our nation's heroes. Regarding him from varying points of view they have seen different phases of his greatness. Lecturer, Preacher, Essayist, Soldier, Statesman and Poet have essayed their tributes to Lincoln. A few of them we lovingly offer to his memory today:

(a) RECITATION. By _____

A Voice of Praise from the South—Tribute of Henry W. Grady.

"From the union of the colonists, Puritans and Cavaliers, from the straightening of their purposes and the crossing of the blood, slow perfecting through a century, came he who stands as the first typical American, the first who comprehended within himself all the strength and gentleness, all the majesty and grace of this republic—Abraham Lincoln. He was the sum of Puritan and Cavalier, for in his ardent nature were fused the virtues of both, and in the depths of his great soul the faults of both were lost. He was greater than Puritan, greater than Cavalier, in that he was American. . . . Let us build with reverent hands to the type of this simple, but sublime life, in which all types are honored."

(b) RECITATION. By _____

Tribute of Emerson.

"There, by his courage, Justice, his even temper, his fertile counsel, his humanity, Abraham Lincoln stood a heroic figure in the centre of a heroic epoch. He is the true history of the American people in his time. Step by step he walked before them; slow with their slowness, quickening his march by their slowness, representative of the people, entirely public man; father of his country, the pulse of twenty millions throbbing in his heart, the thought of their minds articulated by his tongue."

(c) RECITATION. By _____

Tributes of Grant and Garfield.

General Grant said: "Lincoln was a man of great ability, true patriotism, unselfish nature, full of forgiveness for his enemies."

President Garfield said: "Such a life and character as Lincoln's will be treasured forever as the sacred possession of the American people and of mankind."

(d) RECITATION. By _____

Tribute of William McKinley.

"What were the traits of character that made him leader and master, without a rival in the greatest crisis in our history? What gave him such mighty power? Lincoln had sublime faith in the people. He walked with and among them. He recognized the importance and power of an enlightened public sentiment and was guided by it. Even amid the vicissitudes

and to come. It had its evils too. . . . It breathed forth famine, swam in blood and rode on fire; and long, long after the orphan's cry, and widow's wail, continued to break the ead silence that ensued. There were the price, the inevitable price, paid for the blessings it brought.

"Turn now, to the temperance revolution. In it, we shall find a stronger bondage broken; a viler slavery unmanitied; a greater tyrant deposed. In it, more of want supplied, more disease healed, more sorrow assuaged. By it, no orphan starving, no widows weeping. By it, none wounded in feeling, none injured in interest. Even the dram maker, and the dram seller, will have glided into other occupations so gradually, as never to have felt the shock of change; and will stand ready to join all others in the universal song of gladness.

"And when the victory shall be complete—when there shall be neither a slave nor a drunkard on earth—how proud the title of that Land, which may truly claim to be the birthplace and the cradle of those revolutions, that shall have ended in that victory. How nobly distinguished that people, who shall have planted and nurtured to maturity, both the political and moral freedom of their species."

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"What were the traits of character that made him leader and master, without a rival, in the greatest crisis in our history? What gave him such mighty power? Lincoln had sublime faith in the people. He walked with and among them. He recognized the importance and power of an enlightened public sentiment and was guided by it. Even amid the vicissi-

tudes of war, he concealed little from public inspection. In all that he did, he invited rather than evaded public examination and criticism. He submitted his plans and purposes as far as practicable, to public consideration with perfect frankness and sincerity. There was such homely simplicity in his character, that it could not be hedged in by the pomp of place, nor the ceremonial of high official station."

(e) RECITATION. By
"The First American." Lowell.

Such was he, our Martyr-Chief,
Whom late the Nation he had led,
With ashes on his head,
Wept with the people of an angry grief;
Forgive me, if from presents things I turn
To speak with in my heart will beat and burn,
And hang my wreath on his world-honored urn.

. I praise him not; it were too late;
And some infinite weakness there must be
In him who condescends to victory
Such as I! Present gives, and cannot wait,
Safe in himself as in a gate.
So always firmly he;
He knew to bide his time.
And can his fame abide,
Still patient in his simple faith sublime,
Till the wise years decide.

Great captains, with their guns and drums,
Disturb our judgment for the hour.

But at the last the silence comes;
These are all gone, and standing like a tower,
Our children shall behold his fame.

The kindly-earnest, brave, foreseeing man,
Sanguine, patient, dreading pain, not blame,
New birth of our new soul, the first American!

8. HYMN: Selected from the Sunday School song book, Number

Presiding Officer:
Now let us look a little closer at Lincoln as a temperance man. A few facts out of many which might be given are contained in the recitation we are now to hear.

9. RECITATION. By
Lincoln's Temperance Career. By Howard H. Russell, General Secretary the Lincoln Legion.

"When Abraham Lincoln was nine years old he promised his mother as he lay upon her death-bed, that he would never drink intoxicating liquor. That promise he kept through his life. He was twelve years of age when he advocated a pledge of temperance, which the minister sent to an Ohio paper, where it was published. Early in its organization he joined the Sons of Temperance. He took part in the Washington movement, and on the 12th of February, 1845, delivered to the Society at Springfield, Illinois, the remarkable address from which extracts have been given. After the movement had waned elsewhere, interest in the cause of total abstinence was kept up in Sangamon County by meetings which Lincoln addressed and in which he advocated the pledge of total abstinence which he himself had written.

"So strong was Lincoln's adherence to his policy of abstinence that he never allowed liquors in his home. Before the committee came to notify him of his nomination for the Presidency, he said to a neighbor, 'They tell me that there will be some high-fliers from New York and elsewhere who will expect to have liquor served them. I have never had it in the house, and I don't like to begin now.' The notifying committee were so much with sparkling cold water. During the Civil War, President Lincoln sent Mr. J. B. Merwin, a temperance evangelist, among the soldiers to induce them to sign the pledge.

"One day on a government ship at sea, Lincoln was seasick, as you would expect of a man raised on the prairies. As a remedy the sympathetic Captain brought him a glass of champagne. He refused, saying, 'No, thank you, Captain, I've seen too many people sear on land from drinking that stuff!' And so through his life Lincoln faithfully kept the pledge made to his dying mother when he was a boy.

10. THE LINCOLN LEGION.

Presiding Officer:
We are now to hear the fascinating story of the Lincoln Pledge and the origin of the Lincoln Legion with which we are invited to enroll today.

RECITATION OR READING. By

The Story of the Lincoln Pledge.

It is a very interesting story, the discovery of the Lincoln Total Abstinence Pledge. Superintendent Howard H. Russell of the Anti-Saloon League had heard there had been such a pledge and that Cleopas Breckenridge knew the facts about it. So Russell arranged a meeting with Breckenridge at Springfield, Ill., in the year 1902.

Breckenridge told Russell that Lincoln was the speaker at a temperance meeting at the South Fork school house, sixteen miles northeast of Springfield about the year 1846 when he (Breckenridge) was ten years old. After an earnest plea for total abstinence, Mr. Breckenridge remembered that Mr. Lincoln took a paper from his pocket and said: "I have a pledge here which I have written and signed, and would be glad to have my neighbors sign with me." After a number had signed it, Lincoln asked if they wished his name on the pledge and he said, "Yes, sir," and upon his agreeing that his name should be placed upon it, Lincoln signed it for him. Breckenridge then said: "Mr. Lincoln, put the pencil and pledge in one hand and leaning down he put his hand on my head and said, 'Now, sonny, you keep that pledge and it will be the best act of your life.' And I have kept it ever since."

At a later visit at the Breckenridge farm, Breckenridge told Russell of two retired old farmers at Edinburg, Ill., Mr. Moses Martin, and Mr. L. E. Berry, who he thought were present at the temperance meeting at the South Fork School house. Russell went to see them and found that they remembered the meeting and that they had there signed the Lincoln Pledge. He then asked if they knew Mr. Galaway also verified the facts, saying she was present at the meeting and signed the pledge. Moses Martin told Superintendent Russell that Preston Breckenridge, the father of Cleopas Breckenridge, had held other temperance meetings in Sangamon county and he (Martin) had acted as secretary; that they made a copy of the Lincoln Pledge and used it at those meetings, and he (Martin) had committed it to memory.

11. RECITATION OR READING. By

Birth of the Lincoln Legion.

Upon these notable facts, Superintendent Russell, with the co-operation of friends at Oberlin, Ohio, founded the Lincoln Legion at that college town in 1903. Breckenridge and Martin were present and gave the testimony about the Lincoln meeting and the Lincoln pledge. They again signed at Oberlin the same pledge which they had signed fifty-seven years before, and it was signed by two thousand others who were present at the Oberlin meeting. Before the meeting ended, the people who had signed the pledge stood with uplifted hand and the pledge was verbally administered by Moses Martin, the people repeating it after him sentence by sentence. As Martin had received it from Lincoln, so he gave it to the people as follows:

"WHEREAS, the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage is productive of pauperism, degradation and crime, and believing it is our duty to discourage that which produces more evil than good, we therefore pledge ourselves to abstain from the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage."

Thus the Lincoln Pledge, brought down over a half a century of time upon the tablets of the memory of Moses Martin, formed the basis for a new and hopeful pledge-signing movement. More than a quarter of a million persons of various ages of the United States have already signed the Lincoln Pledge.

The Lincoln Legion, with its founder, Rev. Howard H. Russell, as General Secretary, is now to be carried forward very aggressively as the Abstinence Department of the Anti-Saloon League of America.

National offices for the Lincoln Legion are opened at Westerville, Ohio, and a great Publishing House has been started there. The duplicate copies of the pledges signed here today by those enrolling in the Legion will be placed on record permanently at these national offices. Every Sunday School will be invited to help in the movement to enlist singers, young and old, in every community, and so a strong chain of many links will be constructed to unite the whole country and encircle the world with its bond of "LOVE, SACRIFICE, and SERVICE."

12. UNVEILING THE PICTURE. By
(A boy ten years old should be appointed.)

Presiding Officer:

Our thanks are due to all those who have prepared and taken part so earnestly in this service, and to the committees who have assisted in its preparation. We must thank the Decoration Committee for framing for us a beautiful picture. At this time the flag with which they have draped and concealed it is to be removed. (The boy takes his place.) In this picture the talented artist, Mr. Arthur I. Kaller, has shown Mr. Lincoln as he appeared when he gave the Total Abstinence Pledge in 1846 to the boy Cleopas Breckenridge. The Committee appropriately have appointed a boy ten years of age, the same age as Breckenridge was, to disclose the picture to us and he will unveil it now. (Picture unveiled.)

Presiding Officer:

What did Mr. Lincoln say to the boy Breckenridge?

Boy Who Unveils It:

Mr. Lincoln said: "Now, sonny, you keep that pledge and it will be the best act of your life." (Boy returns to his seat.)

Presiding Officer:

The National officers of the Lincoln Legion have presented the picture to this School, and the Decoration Committee have given it a handsome frame. It is to hang in the Sunday School room, and whenever we see it, we are all to think of our Lincoln Pledge, and to resolve again always to keep it faithfully.

13. COLLECTION OF THE OFFERING.

Presiding Officer:

The offering today from all departments of the school is devoted to the extension of the work of the Lincoln Legion, to be applied to the purchase of the "Marion Lawrance Press" (show the picture of the press.) This press when purchased is to be placed in the Publishing House of the Lincoln Legion at Westerville, (near Columbus), Ohio. A Sunday School girl will Christian it with cold water and a Sunday School boy will push the lever and start the press. The Contribution Committee have appointed collectors and you may drop in your envelopes or the money you wish to give. Everyone is invited to have a part in the great Temperance Press of the Lincoln Legion. The offering now will be taken up.

14. THE INVITATION TO ENROLL. By

Appeal of the Pastor, Superintendent or other Speaker.

Briefly state the reasons why a Pledge of Abstinence is a help to the signer and an inspiration and aid to others through the power of example. Urge all who are old enough to understand it to sign the pledge and keep it. Make an earnest plea for all to enlist in the Lincoln

Legion and to honor the memory of Abraham Lincoln by signing the pledge written and advocated by him. Read and explain the Pledge. Then state the pleasure it gives you at this point to call for the reading of the message of the President of the United States.

15. LETTER OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

Read by

[The letter must be kept sealed until this point in the service. The person appointed to read the letter now opens and reads the letter of President Taft.]

Presiding Officer:

These kindly words from the chief magistrates of our nation are very timely and helpful. We are certainly grateful for them. They will encourage all of us to sign the pledges of the Lincoln Legion, the pledge of Abraham Lincoln to which, in his letter, the President refers. All who favor sending President Taft an expression of our thanks for his letter will hold up their hands.

[The Superintendent should send a letter to the President telling him how his letter to the School was appreciated.]

16. THE SIGNING OF THE PLEDGES.

Distribute the pledges promptly. Have extra pencils ready. Invite each one present, old and young, to sign the Lincoln Pledge and to fill the blanks upon the Duplicate. Those who have signed this or any other pledge heretofore, should sign again that their names may be properly enrolled.

Collect the Duplicates. Then ask everyone who has signed to stand and repeat the Pledge in Union and to remain standing for Prayer.

The Presiding Officer will then repeat the Pledge clearly, sentence by sentence, and the School or Congregation, each with the right hand uplifted, will repeat it after him in Union.

The Pastor will then lead in an earnest prayer of consecration and for fidelity to the Pledge.

17. EXPLANATION OF THE WALL ROLL.

Let all be seated again. The Superintendent or Presiding Officer should here show the school the Wall Roll furnished the school by the Lincoln Legion. Tell them the names of all who have signed are to be engrossed as members of the Lincoln Legion upon its Roll, and that the Roll will be framed by the Pledge Committee and hung in the school room as a frequent reminder to each one of the promise just made. Also tell them that other names of the future Pledge Signing services will be added to the Wall Roll.

18. THE USUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF ATTENDANCE, ETC.

19. CLOSING HYMN. From the Sunday School book. Number.....

20. BENEDICTION.

After this Service is used, the General Secretary would appreciate a few words of favorable comment from Pastor or Superintendent, and any suggestions with reference to the preparation of future services.

Address, Rev. Howard H. Russell, Westerville, Ohio.